

## LITTLE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2021

- 1) Due to the COVID -19 pandemic the meeting was held in accordance with the Local Authority (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020.

Councillors Beecroft, Jones, King, Kirkland, McSweeney, and Williamson were present with ward councillor Gibbon. Apologies were tendered from Cllr Tomlinson and Ward councillors Marshall and Wright.

- Declarations of interest- As all the parish councillors lived in the village they all had personal interests. In addition Cllr Jones was a trustee of the Little Leigh Community Trust and Councillors Jones, King and McSweeney were also trustees of the Village Hall Management Committee.

### 2) **Chairman's opening remarks**

The Chairman wished councillors a Happy New Year. Cllr Jones had been presented with an engraved vase to commemorate her British Empire Medal. He requested that people remind others to follow the Government COVID rules and to stay at home.

- 3) **Public submissions-** the Clerk had received complaints that free range chickens were not being kept under cover at Cherry Tree nursery Smithy Lane despite legislation aimed at containing Avian flu. She had referred the matter to CWAC's regulatory services.

### 4) **Minutes of November meeting**

*Resolution 1:14.01.21 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2020 were approved. Proposed Cllr Kirkland seconded Cllr Beecroft voting unanimous.*

### 5) **Clerks report**

- The village show had been cancelled but Cllr Jones had suggested a virtual pet show. Cllrs Jones and King would progress setting up a Facebook page for photographs, videos and drawings. The Clerk would invite a judge to assist. Prizes would be awarded.
- Funds had been set aside for a volunteers' party but this would be delayed due to COVID lockdown measures.

- **Kissing gates**

Thanks to a partnership with landowners and CWAC kissing gates had been installed on the circular walk, between Brakeley Lane and the A533 layby and at the end of the footpath onto the A533. They had been well received by walkers.

### 6) **Biodiversity measures**

Around 12 possible locations had been identified for tree planting on private land at CWAC's expense for planting and maintenance. The scheme also allowed for the refurbishment and creation of ponds. Councillors identified several areas for public land wildflower planting from spring 2021 subject to the COVID pandemic. The Clerk was awaiting further information on the scheme from CWAC.

9) **Operation Starshine**

- Cllr Jones reported that Operation Starshine had been partially successful and had engaged in particular older members of the community and the knit and natter group which had crafted over 70 hand crafted Christmas trees for decorating the Village Hall railings.
- The village hall management committee had funded additional lighting so money remained available for prizes for the virtual pet show.
- Further activities would be planned for Easter.

10) **Correspondence**

- Correspondence from CWAC, the Police, ChALC and NALC had been circulated.
- The Police were consulting on a further increase to the police precept of £1.25 per month per band D equivalent property. Individual councillors would respond.
- The police were consulting on public perception of the Cheshire police service. Individual councillors would respond.
- The Clerk would recirculate the material on the 2021 census planned for 21 March which would be largely online. It was important that people completed it as among its uses was informing local authority long term planning.
- The Clerk had responded to a Natural England consultation on revision of the Countryside Code. She would inform ChALC that the deadline for response was far too tight.
- The Clerk was a COVID Community Champion and had circulated information received from CWAC, eg the COVID figures which had climbed sharply since Christmas and a presentation on COVID statistics from CWAC's Director of Public Health. It was vital that people followed Government guidance to stay at home. The vaccination programme had commenced in CWAC. A book of remembrance was open for those who had lost people to COVID.

11) **Finance**

*Resolution 2 :14.01.2021 The following receipts and payments were proposed by Cllr Beecroft seconded by Cllr McSweeney Voting unanimous*

£440.95	Income HMRC VAT reimbursement
TBC £750	Income Ward councillors grant for noticeboards.
£1078.80	Parish noticeboard company deposit on 2 noticeboards
£8.90	Clerk noticeboard magnets
£505	St Michaels Little Leigh village hall rent.

- The balance in the account as at 30 December was £21487.59.

- The Clerk had obtained 3 quotations from payroll providers as the current provider would stop their service from 31 March. Councillors agreed to use David Shires accountants.  
*Proposed Cllr McSweeney                      Seconded Cllr Jones Voting unanimous*
- Councillors agreed the 2021/22 precept would be set at £8390 which represented a 10% decrease on a band D equivalent property.

*Proposed Cllr Beecroft                      Seconded Cllr Williamson Voting unanimous*

12) **Planning**

- Willowgreen Farm barns conversion to accommodation- pending. Cllr McSweeney had written to the MP, to the Head of CWAC Planning seeking an Article 4 direction and also to the Ward councillors seeking their help. Cllr Gibbon would discuss the application with CWAC's Head of Planning.
- A CWAC planning policy document would be shared with parishes.
- Cllr Mc Sweeney reported that the Government white paper on Planning for the Future had been radically altered following strong opposition to the consultation draft. He thought housing targets would be aimed at urban areas.
- Annexe to Glenroyd Hole House Lane- application withdrawn.
- Sunnyside- CWAC had approved the application
- Replacement stables Hall Lane-CWAC had approved the application
- Valley Farm barn- councillors had no objections
- The Old Vicarage Stoneheyes Lane- councillors had no objections
- Schmitz Cargo Bull- the appeal against refusal of retrospective permission for a canopy had been dismissed.

13) Matters for next meeting- setting final budget.

14) Date of next meeting 11 March 2021. The meeting closed at 7.50pm